Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka States for the welfare of disabled in association with the Rehabilitation Council of India;

(b) if so, whether both the States have agreed to implement the project; and

(c) by when this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

People's empowerment schemes in Jammu and Kashmir

2576. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any People's Empowerment Schemes have been introduced in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the schemes which would cover the Kashmir Valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) There are schemes being implemented for the welfare of the Schedule castes, Backward castes, the Minorities and the disabled in all the states in the country. These schemes are also being implemented in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The empowerment of the people takes place through these schemes.

There is no specific scheme for empowerment of people introduced specially in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Inclusion of new castes in the list of backward classes of the country

†2577. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is a need of making list of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

new castes of backward classes in the country till the end of October month of the current year;

(b) if so, the fact in this regard;

(c) whether Government have identified those new additions which are to be made in the existing list; and

(d) if so, the names of the new castes about which final decision has been taken, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) As per provision under Section 9 (1) of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) Act, 1993, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) examines requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as a backward class in the lists and hears complaints of over-inclusion or under-inclusion of any backward class in such lists and tenders such advice to the Central Government as it deems appropriate.

The Government of India decides cases for inclusion/ amendment in the Central Lists of Backward Classes based on the advices tendered by the NCBC and details thereof are notified from time to time. The Central Lists of OBCs undergoes changes whenever there are additions. This is a continuous process.

(d) The castes and communities on which final decision has been taken have been notified through 19 Gazette Notifications issued so far. The details of these Gasette Notifications are given in the Statement.

Statement

Gazette Notifications issued so far for specification of castes/ communities in the central list of Backward Classes

Sl. No.	Gazette Notifications	
	Number	Date
1.	186	13.09.1993
2.	163	20.10.1994
3.	83	16.05.1995

Sl. No.	Gazette Notifications	
	Number	Date
4.	88	25.05.1995
5.	123	17.07.1995
6.	29	29.01.1996
7.	60	11.03.1996
8.	210	11.12.1996
9.	129	08.07.1997
10.	164	02.09.1997
11.	236	12.12.1997
12.	239	17.12.1997
13.	166	04.08.1998
14.	171	06.08.1998
15.	241	27.10.1999
16.	270	06.12.1999
17.	71	04.04.2000
18.	210	21.09.2000
19.	246	06.09.2001

National action plan for eradication of scavenging

2578. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared a National Action Plan for total eradication of manual scavenging;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed plan; and

(c) the number of scavengers in the country, State-wise?